

Homework Routines

After talking with many parents we have found that homework routines are key to ensuring your child develops a positive attitude to home learning. Choose a time that best suits your family and stick to it. Many parents encourage their children to complete homework as soon as they get in, or straight after tea. Remember choose a time that suits both you and your child—don't choose a time that clashes with their favourite TV programme or with your teatime preparations or both you and your child will become frustrated and stressed.

We know that you and your children have busy lives and that they are often tired when they come home from an exciting day at school. A routine will help children organise their time and ensure that they read, practise their spelling, learn their times tables etc. regularly.

Lets make homework fun and not a reason to come up with a million and one excuses!



Making Homework Fun!

In school we try to make all lessons fun. If a child enjoys an activity they will learn more effectively. Make homework a part of everyday life, practise skills in a fun way and set your child challenges. Remember short, regular homework sessions are most effective for younger children.

Websites, games and apps

Look at the HCPS website. Each class has a blog and we will use this to showcase your child's learning and to extend it. Encourage your child to comment on the blog, look at other class blogs and respond to those as well. This will encourage your child to ask questions and respond to other learning that is happening throughout the school.

Apps—if you have an iPhone or iPad have a look at these. There are lots more available as well. If you find any more good apps let us know, there are always new ones being developed!

Audio boo—a really good App that allows your child to record their voice. Great for developing fluency and expression when reading aloud.

Squeebles—good for learning and practising times tables. Have a look at the maths and literacy learning leaflets on the school website for more ideas

I Am Learning — A KS2 app good for revision

Also try these websites:

Primary Games— great for maths at both KS1 and KS2

SATS test online—this challenges your child with real SAT questions, it will boost their confidence as well as develop their skills.

BBC Revisewise & +11 revision



Hoyland Common Primary School

Homework—A guide for parents

Introduction

At HCPS we try to develop as many home/school links as possible because we know that we can get the very best from every child when school and home work in partnership.

We believe that learning does not stop at school, but is a continuous cycle and parents can make an important contribution to their child's learning.



Foundation Stage

In Foundation Stage we encourage links to grow between home and school learning. Homework should be practical and fun.

Sometimes homework tasks will be set by school, posted on the Blog and shared with the children in school. However, in Foundation Stage homework is anything that you and your child experience and share together.

Here are some ideas:

- Talk about what your child has learnt about at school. What did they enjoy? What did they find out about?
- Draw pictures and write about places you visit together. Gather and collect objects from anywhere (in the home, garden, park, woods, seaside etc.). Make a picture with them. Sort them and count them.
- Look at numbers, colours and shapes around you. Which number is on the bus? How many steps to bed? Can we pair up the socks and count them in two's? Look at patterns all around and talk about shapes that you see.
- Enjoy singing rhymes and sharing books together every day.

Reading Books—In FS1 (Nursery) there is a box of books to take home and share together. In FS2 (Reception) your child will bring home a school reading book and phonics book. Please share these together for a few minutes each day. Give lots of positive praise and encouragement to help your child see themselves as a reader. Remember to read yourself to be a role model for your child. Add a comment in your child's reading log to develop home school partnership.

Key Stage 1

In years 1 and 2 we aim to set up routines for home learning and to make it as fun as possible!

Homework consists of:

Reading at Home—10 minutes a day is all we ask. Use this as an opportunity to spend some quality time with your child, talk about the book they are reading, ask about the characters and what might happen next. Can they talk about how the characters might be feeling and why? Use your child's reading log to comment on how well they have read, and tell us of any problems they had. Don't forget to sign it too as your child will receive prizes for lots of reading.

Spelling Snails—these are designed so that your child can practise their phonics skills. Encourage your child to sound out words, then write them down. Try putting the word in a sentence, talk about its meaning. Try writing the words in the steam on the bathroom wall, write them in the air, write them with your finger on each other's back, can you tell what the word is?

Marvellous Mission and Brain booster Books—these are a weekly homework task given to compliment and support learning in class. We try to make the tasks as varied and as open ended as possible so that your child can choose how to respond to them. Drawing, writing, sticking in pictures and making models and posters are all activities which will feature in the tasks at some point. Encourage your child to think about the task, again little and often is the key to success, don't make it a battle, set up a routine and do a bit at a time.

Key Stage 2

In Key Stage 2, we aim to provide an interesting range of creative homework tasks in order to extend and support learning at home.

Homework consists of:

Reading at Home—the school recommends 3-5 times per week. Reading records are used as a link between school and home, to support and monitor reading. We value comments made by parents and encourage the use of reading records to both celebrate successes and raise any issues related to their child's reading skills. Please see the 'Supporting Reading at Home' learning leaflet for more details.

Topic Challenges—each term, your child will receive a list of challenges linked to their topic that can be completed at home. We ask that at least two from the list are attempted and brought into school to be celebrated. Children are free to choose the challenges they are interested in, and this will hopefully encourage independent learning.

Class Homework—Class teachers will regularly set homework tasks linked to what pupils have been learning about in class. This will include a range of subjects, including: Literacy, Numeracy, Science and Learning Log reflections. Please check your child's homework diary regularly and don't forget to sign it each week.

If you would like any further information on supporting your child's learning at home, then please see the subject learning leaflets on our website: www.hoylandcommonprimary.co.uk